

7. RECORD SAMBAR FOR THE NILGIRIS

A sambar shot in 1953 by Mr. Atzenwiler within sight of the Ootacamund Golf Club carried the largest recorded head for the Nilgiris. Measurements taken by me personally with a steel tape and checked thrice to ensure accuracy were as follows:—

Length right horn $44\frac{1}{2}$ ".

„ left horn 43"

Girth above brow antler both horns 7".

Widest inside $29\frac{2}{3}$ ".

Tip to tip $34\frac{7}{8}$ ".

The largest head previously recorded was 42" shot some 70 years ago.

KALHATTI, NILGIRIS,
March 3, 1954.

Lt.-Col. E. G. PHYTHIAN-ADAMS
Hon. Supdt. Nilgiri Game Association.

8. MALFORMATION IN ANTLERS OF THE
MALAYAN SAMBAR

(With a photo)

I recently acquired, as the result of a prosecution under our Game Laws, the antlers of a Malayan Sambar Deer (*Cervus unicolor*).

One of the antlers shows rather a unique malformation of one of the brow tines, which, instead of consisting of one point only, is forked and shows two points.



The antlers measured respectively 23 inches and 22 inches on the outside curve. The 'freak' antler an inch above the burr measured $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference while the other measured only $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The tips of the 'twin tines' measured 7 inches from the burr and were $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long from inside of the fork.

This is the first time that such an abnormality has come to my notice for, although this freak has obviously been caused by damage to the 'bud' of the growing antler, it is so regular and uniform in growth and appearance that it would appear to be just a normal antler growth.

The antlers were still in velvet which was in the process of being rubbed off. The points were all worn which indicates that there was no pain or discomfort due to the growth of this freak tine.

This stag was caught in one of the wire noose traps known as 'jerat' (Malay) so extensively used throughout the country at the present time. These traps, which are set ostensibly for wild pig, cause enormous damage to the wild life of the country as they are not discriminatory in their action and catch and mutilate animals of all species—from elephant to fawn barking deer, sambar, wild dog and bear.

KLANG, SELANGOR,
MALAYA,
April 8, 1954.

H. J. KITCHENER
*Chief Game Warden,
Federation of Malaya.*

9. SHIKAR IN INDIA

The following extract from The Asiatic Annual Register of 1800, from 'Chronicle' for May, may be of some interest to several members of the Society as it points out that tiger were alarmingly common 150 years ago, that even at that time 9 ft. 4 ins. was considered an exceptional size for a tiger and, what is most interesting, that camels were used with appreciation in the hunting of tiger under circumstances where elephants are used now-a-days and under conditions, which to say the least must certainly have been exciting.

Extract of a letter from a Cavalry Officer, dated Camp Mooree Jahara, April 21 :—

' . . . The detachment arrived here on the 11th; and in the evening of that day, a grasscutter of the 1st regiment was seized and devoured by a tigress, eight feet ten inches long.

A party was formed the next morning, who went out to attack her in the place of her retreat; not 400 yards from our lines. In endeavouring to drive her out of her den, two male tigers darted out successively, and were both shot before the female made her appearance, when, after three desperate charges, she also fell, and was cut to pieces with tulwars. The party consisted of the camels of the detachment, and only a few troopers on horseback, whose ardour the officers found it very difficult to restrain; and from the number of shots fired in every direction, it was, upon the whole, a fortunate circumstance, that only one man was wounded by a carbine ball, besides three others whom the tigers sprung upon. The two male tigers did not measure eight feet. We had every reason to expect quiet nights after destroying our dangerous neighbours; but we found that the country abounds with tigers; for the alarm was given three successive nights; but every endeavour to find out the retreat of one of those animals proved abortive.

On the 19th, a man was carried away by a tigress; and from our having missed a dawk (we have reason to suppose it is the dawk hircarrah), the next morning, a party of a few troopers, armed only with pistols, and the camel-riders (troopers) who were only allowed to carry their swords, was ordered out. At sun-rise this morning, at the distance of five miles from camp, in a thick, small